

**SENATE RESOLUTION 428—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2014, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANIC AMERICANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 428

Whereas through the “National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity” and the “HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities”, the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to advance the safety, health, and well-being of people of the United States;

Whereas a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, entitled “The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States”, concludes that, between 2003 and 2006, the combined cost of “health inequalities and premature death in the United States” was \$1,240,000,000,000;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified 6 main categories in which racial and ethnic minorities experience the most disparate access to health care and health outcomes, including infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and immunizations;

Whereas African-American women are more than twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than White women and are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group;

Whereas the death rate from stroke is 50 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites;

Whereas Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii are 5.7 times more likely to die of diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites living in Hawaii;

Whereas in 2011, Asian Americans were 2.9 times more likely than Whites to contract Hepatitis A;

Whereas among all ethnic groups in 2011, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders had the highest incidence of Hepatitis A;

Whereas Asian-American women are 1.5 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to die from viral hepatitis;

Whereas Asian Americans are 5.5 times more likely than Whites to develop chronic Hepatitis B;

Whereas in 2011, 82 percent of children born infected with HIV belonged to minority groups;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasm, unintentional injuries, and diabetes as some of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives die from diabetes, alcoholism, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide at higher rates than other people in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is 4.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States;

Whereas marked differences in the social determinants of health, described by the World Health Organization as “the high burden of illness responsible for appalling premature loss of life [that] arises in large part because of the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age”, lead to poor health outcomes and declines in longevity; and

Whereas community-based health care initiatives, such as prevention-focused programs, present a unique opportunity to use innovative approaches to improve health care practices across the United States and sharply reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2014, which include bringing attention to the severe health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 429—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2014, AS “DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 429

Whereas many countries throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate “Día de los Niños”, or “Day of the Children”, on April 30 each year, in recognition and celebration of the future of their country: their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and children are the center of families in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States should nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2012 American Community Survey by the Bureau of the Census, approximately 17,500,000 of the nearly 53,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under the age of 18, representing about ⅓ (33 percent) of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly ¼ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and fastest-growing racial or ethnic community in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with the rest of the United States;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through their family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help

affirm the significance of family, education, and community for the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2014, to be “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”, a day to bring together Latinos and other communities in the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a country are the responsibility of all people of that country, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2014, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive and uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all members of a family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 2972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2973. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 2972.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following: